

# WHAT'S *New*



in the Metropolitan Police Department

*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, September 22, 2006*

## CLEARANCE RATES EXCEED NATIONAL AVERAGES FOR MOST SERIOUS CRIMES

The MPDC in 2005 solved a higher percentage of murders, rapes, aggravated assaults and burglaries than did comparably sized cities in the US, according to data released by the FBI. The 2005 edition of the FBI's annual "Crime in the United States" report includes clearance rates for seven "Index" crimes, broken down by type and size of jurisdiction. Comparing the clearance rates for all cities having populations of 500,000-999,999, DC rates favorably in most crime types. DC's population is currently estimated at approximately 582,000. For example, the MPDC had a 61 percent clearance rate for homicide during 2005. That compares with a rate of 54.1 percent among all cities in the 500,000-999,999 population group. The MPDC's clearance rate for forcible rape (73.7%) was more than double the comparable city average (35.6%). Similarly, the MPDC's clearance rates for aggravated assault (52.7%) and burglary (18.9%) were substantially higher than the rates in similarly sized cities (43% and 9.2%, respectively). The MPDC was below average in its clearance rates for robbery (15.7% vs. 18.9%) and larceny/theft (8.1% vs. 13.1%). For motor vehicle theft, the MPDC clearance rate was only 1.9 percent, compared with a rate of 9.6 percent among all cities with 500,000-999,999 residents. However, the motor vehicle theft clearance rate in DC continues to be artificially low, because most people arrested for operating a stolen vehicle in the District are charged only with "unauthorized use of a vehicle," and not the more serious crime of auto theft, as they are in most other cities. The annual FBI report also found that violent crime in the US rose by 2.3 percent last year, driven by increases in both homicide and robbery. In DC, homicides, as well as sexual assaults and aggravated assaults, declined slightly in 2005, but a 14 percent rise in robbery offenses pushed the violent crime total up 5 percent. Total crime in DC fell by about 1 percent last year.

① Access the complete "Crime in the US 2005" document at:  
<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius>

① Official crime statistics from 1993-2005, for each of the seven police districts and the city as a whole, are posted at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543315.asp>

## MPDC ANNOUNCES FINAL 13 CCTV CAMERAS TO COMBAT NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME

The MPDC this week began installing the last 13 of 48 Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras designed to combat crime in DC neighborhoods. The Department began installing CCTV cameras in DC neighborhoods in early August, and pledged to have 48 cameras operational by the end of September. With the installation of the 13 new cameras, the MPDC expects to beat that timeline by at least a week. The use of CCTV cameras for crime-fighting purposes is permitted under the Enhanced Crime Prevention and Abatement Emergency Amendment Act of 2006, which the DC Council passed and Mayor Williams signed in July. The cameras, which focus on public space only, are "passively monitored" by the MPDC, meaning that officers generally do not watch the camera feeds in real time. Rather, camera images are recorded and then reviewed by police if there are reports of criminal activity in the area. In selecting locations for CCTV cameras, the Chief of Police is required by law to consider calls for police service, reported crimes and other public safety indicators, as well as recommendations or requests from Advisory Neighborhood Commissions and civic or citizen associations. The 48 neighborhood cameras span all seven police districts.

① Read the latest news release at:  
<http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx/agency/mpdc/section/2/release/9668>

① Detailed information about the MPDC's use of CCTV cameras, including the locations of all 48 neighborhood cameras and an FAQ fact sheet on the program, can be found at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1238,q,541201,mpdcnav\\_gid,1545,mpdcnav\\_|31748|.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1238,q,541201,mpdcnav_gid,1545,mpdcnav_|31748|.asp)

## DC OFFICIALS MAKE CASE FOR DEDICATED CRIME LAB

Chief Ramsey joined Edward Reiskin, DC's deputy mayor for public safety and justice, and other public safety officials and community activists on Friday in making the case before Congress for a Consolidated Forensics and Public Health Laboratory for the District. The officials told the House Government Reform Committee that the proposed facility would include a fully functional crime lab that would allow the MPDC to make greater use of DNA analysis and other advancements in forensics technology needed to solve more crimes and prosecute more offenders. Unlike most other major city police departments, the MPDC does not have its own crime lab, and instead must rely on the resources of the FBI Crime Lab in Quantico, Virginia. Officials estimate that the MPDC accounts for about 30 percent of the FBI lab's workload. Both Reiskin and Ramsey pointed out that with increased demands and shifting priorities, especially following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the FBI Crime Lab cannot always keep up with the demands from the MPDC, especially in the area of DNA analysis. Ramsey said that having a dedicated crime lab not only would support the more timely investigation and prosecution of crimes such as murder, sexual assault and robbery, but also would promote safer neighborhoods. "Unnecessary delays or missed opportunities in moving forward with criminal prosecutions can harm not only the victims or the survivors, who are seeking justice and some measure of 'closure,'" Ramsey said. "They can also endanger the community at large, as offenders continue to commit crimes while the earlier case against them is being built." Reiskin said the District government is moving forward with plans to construct a consolidated lab, which would include the MPDC's Forensics Crime Lab, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, the Department of Health's Public Health Lab, and the Pretrial Services Agency's Forensic Toxicology Drug Testing Lab. He said construction is scheduled to start in 2007 and be completed in 2010, but added that to meet that timeline, the District will continue to need significant federal support for the estimated \$253 million project.

## NEWS & NOTES

**Solberg Promoted to Commander.** Chief Ramsey has promoted Andrew Solberg to the rank of Commander in charge of the Second District. Solberg had been serving as "acting commander" of 2D, in the rank of Inspector, since April 2006. A 19-year veteran of the MPDC, Commander Solberg previously served as Inspector in charge of the First District Substation (1D-1).

**Latest Crime Emergency Statistics.** Serious crime is down nearly 14 percent, and arrests, gun recoveries and curfew citations are all up sharply, since Chief Ramsey declared the crime emergency on July 11. The latest statistics show a 13 percent drop in violent crime and a 14 percent reduction in property offenses when comparing July 12-September 17, 2006, with the same time period of 2005. Access the latest data at <http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx/agency/mpdc/section/2/release/9670>.

**Latino Community Public Safety Assembly.** The MPDC's Latino Advisory Council is sponsoring its third quarterly Public Safety Community Meeting on Saturday, September 23, at the Brightwood Elementary School, 1300 Nicholson Street, NW. The event, which runs from 9:30 am-12 noon, will be conducted in Spanish, with English interpretation provided. The central theme of this quarterly meeting will be violent crimes against Latinos. Details at <http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx/agency/mpdc/section/2/release/9612/year/2006>.

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to KEVIN MORISON, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with [Crimereports.com](http://Crimereports.com).

### DATA BOX

<b>Homicides</b>	as of 9/22/06
◆ 2006: 125	
◆ 2005: 140	
◆ % Change: -10.7%	
◆ Closure Rate: 51.2% (64 closures)	
<b>Adult Arrests</b>	week end. 9/17/06
◆ Total: 912	
◆ Weapons: 26	
◆ Robbery: 9	
◆ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 17	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 37	
◆ Narcotics: 149	
<b>Juvenile Activity</b>	week end. 9/17/06
◆ Total Arrests: 75	
◆ Robbery: 8	
◆ Weapons: 3	
◆ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 11	
◆ Curfew Violators: 200	
<b>Firearm Recoveries</b>	as of 9/20/06
◆ September: 102	
◆ 2006 Total: 1,728	
<b>Traffic Fatalities</b>	as of 9/22/06
◆ 2006: 31	
◆ 2005: 36	
◆ % Change: -13.9%	

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